REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application and the same are rejected. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8, and 15 are amended. Accordingly, claims 1-20 remain in the application and are presented for review and further consideration by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Shimizu et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,821,929. (Examiner's Action, page 2, ¶ 1).

In response, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 8, and 15.

Shimizu discloses reading a document using a scanner device or the like, and outputting image data. Shimizu does not disclose the image data including image data of a label affixed to the document. Therefore, Shimizu also does not disclose creating an image of a document and a label affixed to the document.

Characters strings are recognized from the image of the document. Keywords are selected from the character strings. The keywords are recognized from the image of the document itself, not from the image of a label in the document image. Therefore, Shimizu also does not disclose identifying keywords from the image of the label in the document image.

In contrast, Applicant's independent claims 1, 8, and 15, as amended, include wording that an image is created of a document and a label affixed to the document, and the keywords are identified from the image of the label in the document image. Shimizu does not disclose either creating an image of a document and a label affixed to the document or identifying keywords in the image of the label in the document image.

Furthermore, Shimizu discloses identifying keywords based on the connection between words, whether a word is a noun, the frequency of appearance of a word, and the size of the characters of a word. Shimizu does not disclose using field indicators to identify a keyword field where keywords may

be found. Specifically, Shimizu does not disclose detecting field indicators within a document image or locating keyword fields relative to the field indicator.

In contrast, Applicant's dependent claims 12 and 19 include wording that a field indicator is detected within the document image and keyword fields are located relative to the field indicator. Shimizu does not disclose either detecting a field indicator or locating keyword field relative to the field indicator.

In view of Applicant's arguments and amendments with respect to independent claims 1, 8, and 15 being allowable, Applicant respectfully submits that the remaining dependent claims are also allowable because they contain all of the limitations of their respective independent claims and further add structural and functional limitations.

The foregoing amendments and arguments are believed to be a complete response to the most recent Examiner's Action.
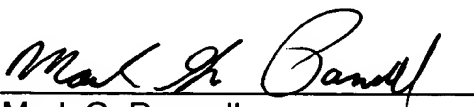
No new matter has been added.

It is respectfully submitted that there is no claim, teaching, motivation, pr suggestion in any of the prior art cited, alone or in combination, to produce what Applicant claims.

It is further submitted that the application, as amended, defines patentable subject matter and that the claims are in a condition for allowance. Such allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Should any issues remain which would preclude the prompt disposition of this case, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned practitioner by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,
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